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UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

EAGLE PASS, TEX., *July 15, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during this week 3 persons have been taken from the train and put into the detention camp here. The first of this party came here on the 12th instant bearing a consular certificate from the United States deputy consul at Monterey, Mexico. The certificate stated that four days previous to the arrival of the party in question he had been in Tampico. For this reason it was deemed proper to take the gentleman from the train and keep him here until the necessary ten days had expired and his baggage had been thoroughly fumigated. The other parties (a gentleman and his wife) came with no consular or other certificate, but stated that they lived in Saltillo, Mexico (one of the healthiest places in the Republic), and that they had had no information regarding the quarantine on the frontier. The lack of this information was purely their own fault as it would have been no trouble for them to have learned of the regulations had they so desired. As so many from infected points tell this sort of story it was deemed best to take the people from the train with the information that a telegram from the American consul at Saltillo (who they said was known to them) would be the only means of giving them relief from quarantine. I am in receipt of a letter from Assistant Surgeon Cofer of this Service in which Dr. Cofer instructed me to disinfect all express packages whose destination is south of the southern boundary of Maryland, and also to disinfect all freight cars coming from infected districts not bearing the stamp and seal of the United States Marine-Hospital Service. In compliance with these instructions, I am disinfecting all express packages, etc., with formalin and the freight cars (box cars) with sulphur (sulphur being about the only drug obtainable here for this purpose).

The fords along the Rio Grande, between here and Del Rio, Tex. (a distance of 60 miles), are being closely watched by guards of the Service, in order that no persons may gain entrance into the United States through this source.

A formaldehyd lamp would be of great service here in the event that many box cars need fumigation. This lamp would also be invaluable in disinfecting express packages, of which there are quite a number coming through here every day.

Respectfully, yours,

LEA HUME,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

EL PASO, TEX., *July 17, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that no passengers arrived from Tampico during the past week.

Several passengers arrived from Vera Cruz with certificates from the United States Marine-Hospital Service medical officers stationed in the City of Mexico, proving that they have been absent from Vera Cruz ten days before their arrival here. Such as came from Vera Cruz had certificates of disinfection.

This system of certificates instituted by the Bureau in the Republic of Mexico works admirably in every respect and facilitates the work of the inspectors at the frontier.

Friday, the 14th of the month, there arrived at this port on the Mexican Central a passenger, his wife and child. The two latter showed that they recently had confluent smallpox. They also had a certificate from the American sanitarium at Guadalajara, Mexico, stating that they had been treated and quarantined there, but there was no proof that their goods had been disinfected, consequently, all their baggage was disinfected before their departure from here.

Respectfully, yours,

E. ALEXANDER,
Sanitary Inspector U. S. M. H. S.

Laredo, July 20, 1899.—I have the honor to submit the following report for week ended July 15, 1899:

Refused entry to 2 persons three days out from Tampico, Mexico. Refused entry to 1 person from Tampico, Mexico. All baggage of above persons was disinfected under my supervision. Refused entry to 14 other persons on account of insufficient evidence of noninfection for week ended July 15.

Passenger traffic from Mexico at present is light. Plan of United States Marine-Hospital Service inspection at Mexico City, San Luis Potosi, and Monterey appears to be now in good working order. It facilitates travel and at the same time reduces danger of infection from Vera Cruz, Mexico. I continue to have United States Marine-Hospital Service guards meet Mexican train at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, so as to know who arrives at that place.

Respectfully, yours,

H. J. HAMILTON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.